



Quality is Our Bottom Line

**General Law Committee Public Hearing
Thursday, February 07, 2013**

**Connecticut Association of Health Plans
Testimony in Opposition to**

HB 5484 AAC PROHIBITING GENERIC SUBSTITUTIONS FOR TAMPER-RESISTANT DRUG FORMULATIONS

The Connecticut Association of Health Plans respectfully urges the Committee's rejection of HB 5484 AAC PROHIBITING GENERIC SUBSTITUTIONS FOR TAMPER-RESISTANT DRUG FORMULATIONS which would require written consent of a prescribing provider in order to use a generic substitution for any drug that is designed in a tamper-resistant formulation.

This proposal runs contrary to efforts by health plans and others to increase generic utilization and creates barriers for pharmacists to substitute a generic. If the FDA determines that a branded tamper resistant drug formulation is equivalent to its generic version, there is already a process in place to communicate to the pharmacy that only the brand can be dispensed. This bill disregards the dispense as written or DAW indication which has been the standard of industry for years.

Please note that the Governor's budget proposal calls for continued savings from generic substitutions and there are similar provisions in place for the state employee account as well. Passage of this legislation would simply add appreciable cost to an already enormously expensive health care benefit and runs contrary to the vision of health care reform to provide affordable access to health insurance.

We would strongly encourage your rejection of HB 5484.